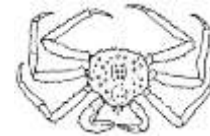

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Petersburg Area Office
P.O. Box 667
Petersburg, Alaska 99833
Date: June 19, 2012
Time: 3:30 p.m.

SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA PERSONAL USE RED AND BLUE KING CRAB FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Petersburg...The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) announced today that waters of Southeastern Alaska outside of Section 11-A (Juneau Area), with the exceptions listed below, will open for personal use red and blue king crab fishing beginning at 12:01 a.m., July 1, 2012.

Because the 2012 Southeastern Alaska red king crab stock assessment survey is not complete, the department used 2011 stock assessment survey results to set bag and possession limits and determine open areas for the red and blue king crab personal use fishery outside of Section 11-A. 2011 survey results indicate the following:

- Regionwide, the harvestable biomass of mature red and blue king crab exceeds 200,000 lb.
- Stock health in Seymour Canal remains poor.
- Legal male biomass estimates in Peril Strait and Port Frederick are well below average.
- Stocks in all other surveyed areas and non-surveyed areas appear capable of withstanding some level of harvest.

The personal use red and blue king crab fishery will not open in areas where stock health is poor or well below average, areas that will remain closed until further notice are defined as follows (Figure 1):

1. Port Frederick (all waters of Port Frederick south and west of a line between the light at Cannery Point to the northernmost tip of Halibut Island and from there to a point at 58°09.60' N. latitude 135°30.00' W. longitude);
2. Section 11-D, Seymour Canal (waters of Seymour Canal north of 57°37.00' N. latitude);
3. Section 13-C, Peril Strait (all waters of Peril Strait including Hoonah Sound, Ushk Bay, Rodman Bay, Saook Bay, Hanus Bay, Sitkoh Bay, and contiguous waters west of a line from Point Hayes to Point Thatcher and north of a line from Pogibshi Point due west to the Chichagof shoreline).

Those waters outside of Sections 11-A, 12-B, 15-B, and 15-C not listed as closed areas above, will have a daily bag and possession limit of six red and blue king crab in combination as prescribed in regulation [5 AAC 77.664(a)(1)]. Sections 12-B, 15-B, and 15-C will have a daily bag and possession limit of three red and blue king crab in combination as prescribed in regulation [5 AAC 77.664(b)].

Status of the red and blue king crab personal use fishery within Section 11-A was addressed in a separate news release dated June 11, 2012. For more information on the red and blue king crab personal use fishery within Section 11-A please contact Dave Harris at (907) 465-4250.

The regionwide personal use fishing season for Tanner and golden king crab in Southeast Alaska is July 1 – June 15 annually; providing a 15 day closure period prior to the next season's opening.

The emergency order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1C1512.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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<i>AWT</i>	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000		945-3620	

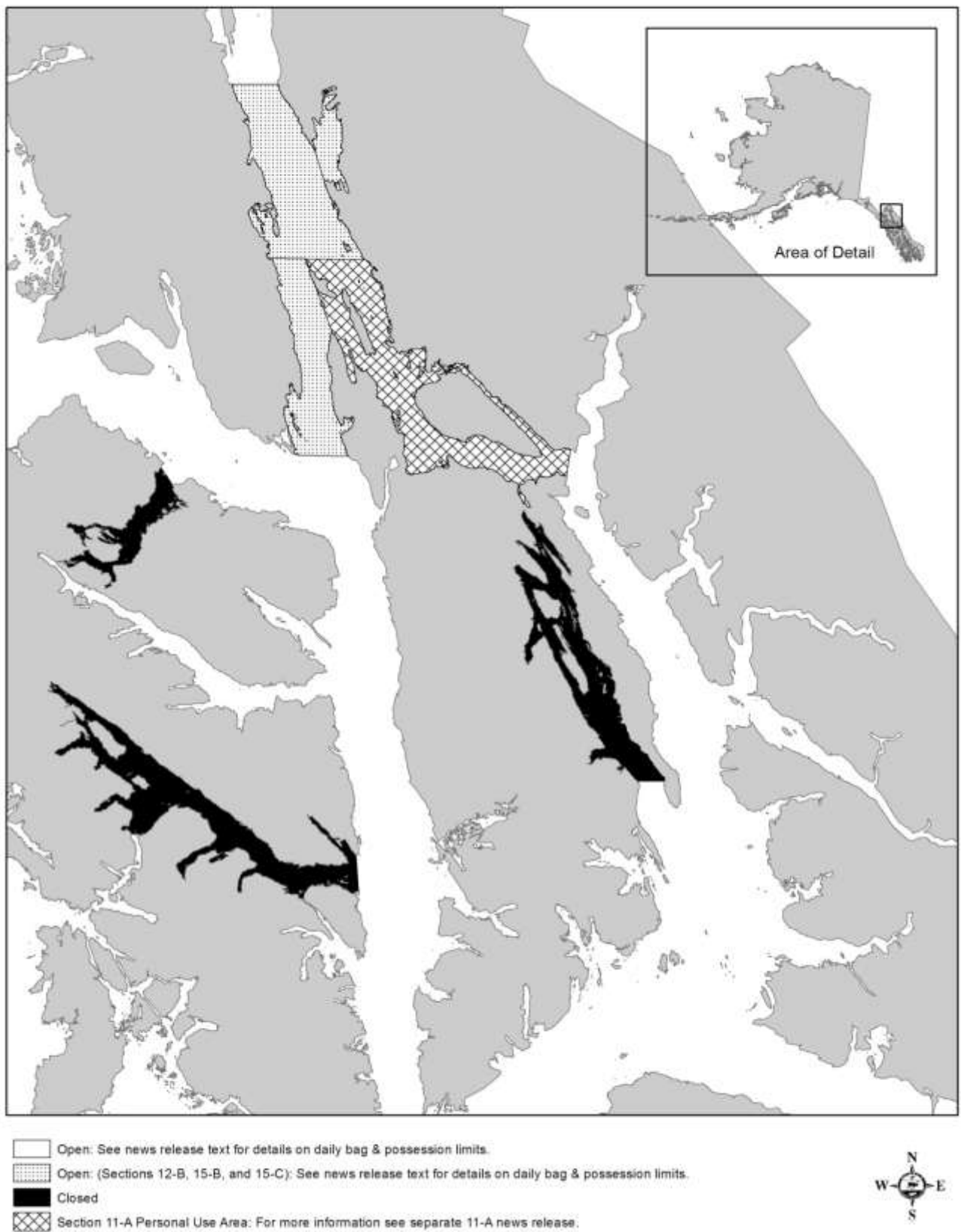


Figure 1. This map is for reference purposes only. Please refer to text in this news release for legal descriptions of management area boundaries and other details.